

September 2015 Newsletter

Big Island Amateur Radio Club

Where do you go for an Elmer?

In ham-speak, an Elmer is a mentor, someone who is willing to offer his or her expertise about something. Getting into ham radio is sometimes overwhelming and you need a guiding hand.

Elmers come in all sorts of shapes, sizes and skill-sets.

Ask around.

How do we go about keeping amateur radio healthy here on the Big Island?

I am thinking that we need to keep our clubs vital and thriving in order to have a healthy environment for new hams, for hams who want to branch into other modes, for hams to learn how to work HF effectively, and all that kind of thing.

A club is a place to meet people, to share information, to organize for bigger projects, like keeping the repeaters going, to encourage us all to get on the air and make a difference with our hobby.

At the last BIARC meeting, we could not get enough volunteers for an elections committee. Yes it has been a bit disorganized, people come and go, our lives are busy, and sometimes we forget how fun as well as useful ham radio can be for us.

Please make an effort to rejoin the rewarding group activity known as BIARC with your energy and ideas.

Think of BIARC as a nursery: It is good to have a place for the inexperienced to learn and grow into this adventure of ham radio.

Not to mention, having a focal point to gather helps hams from other areas to get local information and have an eyeball. It is a really needed thing here.

Maybe we should try to put a news section from other clubs in our meetings, build a little more inter-group contact.

Heck, I don't have all the answers, but I know we all have something to contribute. Please make the next meeting and exercise your right to enjoy this hobby.

**73 and Aloha,
Peggy Gentle, KE6TIS**



Elmers make a big difference in the lives of aspiring hams of all ages. This photo was taken at last year's PACIFICON 2014. This year's edition will be presented by ARRL Pacific Division and Mt. Diablo Amateur Radio Club Oct. 16-18 in San Ramon, Calif. (More info later in this newsletter.)

From the ARRL:

The Big Island Amateur Radio Club meets on the second Saturday of the month at 1400W at the Keaau Community Center. The next meeting will be September 12. The program will be about the Amateur Radio Parity Act of 2015 and will highlight the art of building "stealth Antennas."

We are sad to report that Anthony (Tony) Vincent, WH6PS, of Hauula is a SK. There are no details. Again, we note with sadness, the passing of John Montalbano, KH6JMM, on March 28. He was president of Kauai ARC. They have set up a repeater memorial fund in remembrance. If you would like to contribute, contact Elaine Albertson, AH6TA, or any of the members.

Pacific Section Manager Bob Schneider

BREAKING NEWS: US Rep Adam Kinzinger (R-IL) introduced H.R. 1301 on March 4 with bipartisan support. US

Sen Roger Wicker (R-MS) introduced S. 1685 on June 26, with Sen. Richard Blumenthal (D-CT) as an original cosponsor. The Amateur Radio Parity Act of 2015 web page provides a clearing house for all information on these identical pieces of legislation. Please contact the congress people representing you. Send letters to ARRL – 225 Main St. – Newington, CT 06111, or use the local addresses of each congress person, below. It's best not to send the letters to their Washington address as security concerns cause a very long delay.

The ARRL BOD met over the weekend of 7/17-18 in Windsor, CT. See the ARRL webpages for complete details.

1. The ARRL Board of Directors has approved a \$10 increase in the League's annual dues rate, effective January 1, 2016. In doing so, the Board adopted a recommendation of the Administration & Finance Committee. ARRL basic dues have been held at \$39 a year since 2001.

2. BOD adopted amendments to the ARRL HF Band Plan — with some tweaks.

3. BOD Okayed an additional operating event: "National Parks On The Air (NPOTA)" in 2016 to celebrate the National Park Service centennial. (This should make it easier to get approval to operate for events such as Field Day.)

4. BOD began the search for a successor to ARRL CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ, who will retire May 1, 2016.

5. BOD named several ARRL award recipients.

6. BOD approved the 2016 ARRL National Convention for Feb 12-16, 2016 in Orlando, FL.

CEO Dave Sumner said the League has done as much as it can to hold off a dues increase for more than a decade, but now it's a necessity, not an option. Costs are really increasing in all areas of operation.

(More comments from Pacific SM Bob Schneider on the dues increase to \$49 per year: With the coming rate increase now would be a really good time to get a life membership in ARRL before the rate change on January first. A life membership is 20 times the yearly rate. A second alternative is to renew for the maximum of three years before the change. At this time there is no option for only electronic QST except for blind hams. A

blind member also has the option of getting a life membership in ARRL for \$200. (This will go up to \$250 next year) To qualify for a blind membership a person must sign a certificate stating they are blind. Blind membership is \$8 per year. Students have the option of a \$20 rate but for only one year at a time. Family membership is \$8 per year. The regular membership form and life membership form explain all the options. They are available online.)

Urgent action needed: We need to write letters to our senators to support this "second half" of the effort to get some relief from restrictive CC&Rs via the The Amateur Radio Parity Act of 2015 page provides a clearing house for all information on these identical pieces of legislation. Read the articles on the ARRL pages and send your letters through ARRL so they can be hand delivered. Sending them directly to Washington has a built-in delay because of the security screening all mail must now go through. Another option is to send it to the local office of the official or even by e-mail. A telegram also works. Whatever you decide, be sure to send it NOW rather than later.

There are numerous suggested letter forms that you can use. Now that there is Amateur Radio Parity Act of 2015 legislation in both chambers of the US Congress, the League has a combined web page to accommodate activities on behalf of the two bills.

SENATE: Sen. Brian Schatz (D-HI) 300 Ala Moana Blvd., Rm 7-212 Honolulu, HI 96850 Sen. Mazie Hirono (D-HI) 300 Ala Moana Blvd. Rm. 3-106 Honolulu, HI 96850 HOUSE: Rep. Tulsi Gabbard (D-HI) 300 Ala Moana Blvd. Rm. 5-105 Honolulu, HI 96850 Rep. Mark Takai (D-HI) 300 Ala Moana Blvd Rm. 4-104 Honolulu, HI 96850 Rep. Amata Coleman Radewagen (AS) 1 Fagatogo Square Fagatogo, AS 96799 Rep. Madeleine Bordallo (D) Guam 120 Father Duenas Avenue, Suite 107 Hagåtña, Guam 96910 Rep. Gregorio Sablan (I) CMNI Saipan Office P.O. Box 504879 Saipan, MP 96950

BIARC training news: A note from Doug Wilson, KH7DQ: (Doug is now the lead VE for BIARC) We began a new Technician class on (Saturday) August 1 at the Keaau Community Center. The last class will be held on September 5, and the exam will be given that afternoon at 2:00 p.m., again, at the Kea'au Community Center. Eleven people tested at BIARC Field Day, with 9 passing.

As you may remember, in Late March to Early April 2015 Category 5 Typhoon Maysak ravaged many islands in the nation of Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) causing major damage and some loss of life. John Bush, KH6KLK, is now back from his deployment. He reports that recovery is still very slow. The latest of many problems is getting roof iron for the schools. The temporary tarps are tearing. John does not know when new material will arrive as most must come through Guam. The ARRL HF and VHF "Go Kits" are now back in Hawaii ready for deployment should another problem come up. Another HF and VHF "Go Kit" have been deployed to Guam. They will not be redeployed to CNMI at the present time as there is no one to take charge in Saipan or any of the other islands.

As was mentioned earlier, we are still looking for someone to be the **Section Youth Coordinator**.

EVENTS: Weekend of August 21 was the Hawaii QSO Party. Contact Joe Speroni, AH0A, for details. Dean Manley, KH6B, reports the Coconut Island, AL0HA, operation was a success.

Saturday, October 3, is the ARRL Simulated Emergency Test. Sat October 24, 2015 is the Big Island International Hamfest. It will be at the Waimea Community Center. It runs from 1000W to 1400W with early setup at 0900W for vendors. Cost is \$10 for sellers and \$5 for general admission. See the KARS website for details.

MEETINGS & CLUB NEWS: SPARC – The South Point ARC or "SPARC" meets on the first Sunday at Noon at Manuka State park. It is potluck. They are not affiliated with ARRL. They don't have a website (yet). Their next get together is September 6. Their Field Day was at Whittington State Park. They were the southernmost FD site in the US. Your SM visited the site.

The Marianas ARC of Guam normally meets on the first Tuesday at KSTO studio on Nimitz Hill at 1900 Guam time. Their website shows pictures of the VHF and HF "Go Kits" which are now in Guam at the KSTO studio. It will be a forward deployment in case of an emergency in the Western Pacific. Their website is <http://www.ah2g.net/>. We learned during the recent Hawaii deployment to FSM that transporting the kits is not easy and can be expensive.

There is another website for Guam and the Northern Marianas (CNMI) with emphasis on HF operations. It is the Mariana Islands DX Association, NH2DX. It has many pictures as well as history stories. The population for the islands is small so they are to be congratulated for putting together such a nice webpage. <http://www.guam.net/pub/midxa/>. They are not an ARRL affiliated club and they don't have regularly formal meetings.

WHARG – West Hawaii Amateur Radio Group meets on the 1st Wednesday on even Months at 1930W at Waimalu Diners in the Waimalu Shopping Center. The WHARG is a "Hawaiian-style" group of hams interested in amateur radio and good fellowship. No rules, no officers, no dues. They are not an ARRL affiliated group.

KHRC– The Kohala-Hamakua Radio Club meets on two schedules. Odd months are 2nd Sunday in Kapa'au at 1400W. Even months are 2nd Wednesday in Waimea at Keck Bldg. at 1900W. Next meeting: Sunday September 13th at 1400W at 1400 at the Conference Room, Hisaoka Gym, King Kam Park, Kapa'au. The last meeting was Wednesday August 12th at 1900W at the Conference Room, Keck Observatory Headquarters, 65-1120 Mamalahoa Hwy, Waimea, HI 96743 Webpage is: <http://www.hamradioandmore.com/khrc.htm>.

In the past they have met at the Hawaii Preparatory Academy Energy Lab. KHRC helps sponsor the HPA school radio club. The school has a general webpage which is: <http://www.hpa.edu/>. The HPA Energy lab is the only one of its kind in the world. Since HPA is a private school, it is not open to the public.

MARC – Maui ARC meets on the 2nd Wed. at CD Hq. at 1900W. Web is <http://www.kh6rs.org/>. Next meeting is September 9th. Club meetings are held at the Maui County CD Emergency Operating Center (EOC) Conference Room. The EOC is in the basement of the County Building. The County building is located on High Street in Wailuku. Just come around the back of the building from Kaohu Street. Directions can usually be received on 147.020 (+600-no tone). Meetings start at 1900W.

KARC – The Koolau ARC website is: <http://www.karc.net/>. They meet on the second Saturday at 0930W at Ho'omaluhia Botanical Garden Park in Kaneohe, Oahu. Next meeting will be September 12th. EARC - The Emergency ARC (Oahu) website is: http://earchi.org/event_listing.html they normally meet on the 3rd Tuesday at the Fleet Reserve Association (FRA) Branch 46 located at 891 Valkenburgh Street in Honolulu. This will be September 15th at 1900W. Parking is limited so come early.

HARC – The Honolulu ARC website is: <http://ham.aditl.com/harc>. They meet on the third Saturday at 0900W on odd months (Jan, March, May, July, Sept, and Nov) at the Monterey Bay Cannery restaurant. The next meeting will be September 19th.

The Waikiki ARC meets every Tuesday at 0700W for breakfast at the Monterey Bay Cannery in Aiea. It has only the ARRL club website: <http://www.arrl.org/Groups/view/waikiki-amateur-radio-club/type:club>.

KARS – Kona Amateur Radio Society (<http://www.cfht.hawaii.edu/~veillel/hwars.html>) meets on the fourth Sunday at 1400W in Wawaloli Beach Park at NELHA. It is a picnic potluck. Next get-together is September 27. Mediterranean (end of Ramadan) is the food theme. For questions please contact Van NH7IT at 808-345-5008 or e-mail NH7IT@arrl.net. In addition to the regular KARS monthly meeting, the group now has a breakfast at 808 Grindz restaurant in Kopika Plaza on the second Saturday of each month at 0830W. For additional information contact Stuart KH7DX at 808-896-1290.

PERC – The Puna Emergency Radio Club

website is: <http://perchawaii.com/>. The group currently meets on an ad hoc basis. PERC hosts a net every Wednesday at 1900W on two meters.

HARC – (The Hilo ARC): They meet daily 0630-0830W at Jack in the Box Hilo. This club is the oldest on the Island of Hawaii however there was a break in existence of several years until former Section Manager Dean Manley, KH6B and several others reactivated it. They also sponsor the Council of Radio Clubs, which meets once monthly. Please contact Dean for more information. Part of the Hilo ARC operations is also the Hawaii QRP Club. Dean reports two new members, E41WT and E41MT, joined.

Cal-Pac RC upgraded the Mauna Loa site antennas and took the six meter beacon off the air. It will be back at some point in the future, however it has not been decided if it will be put back at Mauna Loa.

The ARRL Pacific Section webpage is: <http://www.arrl.org/Groups/view/pacific-section>. It now contains the Section Manager's report. Each affiliated club should fill in an activities report to ARRL at least once every year. For more information go to: <http://www.arrl.org/club-update>. Your SM is always looking for news So be sure to update him too. Even if your group is not ARRL affiliated, send a report. If you have notable activities send along a jpeg picture and description (please). At the bottom of the Pacific Section webpage is a picture gallery.

Hawaii's Official Amateur Radio Repeater Coordination Site is: <http://www.hawaiirepeaters.net/>. Ron Hashiro's webpage always has a good collection of news of local happenings. See: <http://www.qsl.net/a/ah6rh/am-radio/in-hawaii.html>. There is a new feature telling about the history of the early repeaters in Hawaii, especially Diamond Head 146.88. Go to Ron's page and click on The EARC Diamond Head 146.28/146.88 MHz Repeater.

ARRL Pacific Section Section Manager Robert L Schneider, AH6J, ah6j@arrl.org

More news from ARRL

ARRL President Expects Parity Act House Bill Cosponsorships to Top 100 Soon:

ARRL President Kay Craigie, N3KN, expects to see the list of cosponsors for the US House version of the Amateur Radio Parity Act of 2015 -- H.R. 1301 -- top 100 soon after Congress reconvenes following its August recess. As of August 27, the measure had attracted 94 cosponsors. A US Senate version of the bill -- S. 1685 -- also has been introduced. President Craigie again encouraged ARRL members to urge their congressional delegations to cosponsor the bills. Summertime ARRL conventions have also been affording more members a chance to make their voices heard. "Success doesn't happen by magic," President Craigie said this week. "Offices on Capitol Hill have told us that without constituent expressions of support, cosponsorship -- and, eventually, votes -- will not happen."

The identically worded Amateur Radio Parity Act of 2015 measures would direct the FCC to extend its rules relating to reasonable accommodation of Amateur Service communications to private land-use restrictions. It would require the FCC to amend its Part 97 Amateur Service rules to apply the three-part test of the PRB-1 federal pre-emption policy to include homeowners association regulations and deed restrictions, often referred to as "covenants, conditions, and restrictions" (CC&Rs).

At present, PRB-1 only applies to state and local zoning laws and ordinances, and the FCC has been reluctant to extend the same legal protections to private land-use agreements without direction from Congress.

President Craigie said ARRL staff members and officials have helped members to generate well over 4000 letters to Senators and Representatives at ARRL conventions this summer. Local radio clubs have held letter-signing events at their meetings as well. This week, the ARRL forwarded more than 1000 such letters for hand delivery to Capitol Hill. "But we need a lot more member action now, to push our bills ahead," she added. "We need letters, phone calls, e-mails from every ARRL member

to our Senators and Representatives.

We need every ARRL member to urge our friends in our clubs, on our nets, and on our social media, to take 5 minutes today to do something critically important for the future of Amateur Radio." AMSAT is also encouraging its members to urge lawmakers to cosponsor the two bills. The satellite organization has pointed out that reaching orbiting spacecraft via an appropriate ground station is something that may be denied to satellite enthusiasts living in neighborhoods where outside antennas are restricted or prohibited. The Amateur Radio Parity Act of 2015 page on the ARRL website has complete information on how to become involved. "Capitol Hill needs to hear from every friend of Amateur Radio ...," President Craigie said. "Every voice, your voice, makes a difference."

Amateur Radio Volunteers Face Fire Threat While Supporting Emergency

Communication: The North-Central Washington town of Republic touts "air you can't see" on its website. That's not the case this week. Wildfires in the US Northwest have not only hampered the air quality and visibility, but led to a Level 2 evacuation order in the Ferry County community of about 1000 residents. That could rise to Level 3. Amateur Radio volunteers in Ferry County have been on the front lines of the wildfire emergency there. In Republic, a combination of Ferry County Search and Rescue (SAR), Community Emergency Response Team (CERT), and ARES/RACES volunteers have been supporting communication for a shelter housing some 4 dozen evacuees -- with more to come, according to Ferry County ARES Emergency Coordinator and RACES Radio Officer Sam Jenkins, WA7EC.

"We are now close to our maximum support level for local volunteers," Jenkins told State RACES Officer Monte Simpson, AF7PQ, who also is ARRL Western Washington Section Manager. "We are now expecting to operate for several weeks at the Republic High School. The firefighters

say they are going to attempt to defend our emergency operations center/emergency shelter at all costs," Jenkins added. "We are standing our ground."

In addition to being the Ferry County ARES EC and RACES RO, Jenkins explained, he also heads the SAR component of the dual Ferry County SAR-CERT contingent. "I have networked these three units together over time to increase the effectiveness of our small, poor, but valiant teams," he told ARRL. At present, he's working under the RACES banner. Firefighters from several states and British Columbia, Canada, have been working the Kettle Complex of three fires in Ferry County, which covered nearly 60,000 acres as of August 26. No injuries have occurred and no homes have been lost. Support teams from the Washington National Guard are assisting fire managers to ensure safety. West of Republic near Omak, the Okanogan Complex at more than 280,000 acres is now the largest fire complex in the state's history.

According to the National Interagency Fire Center (NIFC), wildfires continue to burn actively across the West. The NIFC reports that 66 large fires -- or complexes -- have burned nearly 1.6 million acres in 11 states. Twelve fires are burning in Washington alone. Jenkins said his team of volunteers would like to have additional support, but, he told Simpson, "I would expect that it is asking a lot for anyone to leave the comfort of their home to travel to a place where the smoke is so thick you can cut it with a knife, and not know if they would escape." Radio amateurs responding to the wildfire emergencies have been using VHF repeaters as well as HF on 75 and 40 meters, including SSB and digital modes, and IRLP. "We are doing our best at doing our thing," Jenkins said. "I am concerned about what is happening in our sister counties."

FCC Universal Licensing System, Other Applications to be Down for Maintenance:

FCC website maintenance in early September will make the Universal

Licensing System (ULS), the Electronic Comment Filing System (ECFS), the Electronic Document Management System (EDOCS), and other public applications unavailable for more than 5 days. The Commission said the outage began at 2200 UTC on Wednesday, September 2, and will continue through the Labor Day weekend. The maintenance work should be completed by 1200 UTC on Tuesday, September 8. During the ULS outage, it will not be possible to file any Amateur Radio applications.

"[M]ost Commission resources normally accessible through the Commission's website, including access to all electronic filing systems and electronic dockets, will be inaccessible for the same period, with the exception of the Network Outage Reporting System (NORS), the Consumer Help Center (CHC), and the Disaster Information Reporting System (DIRS), which will remain available," an FCC Public Notice said on August 20. "The Commission's website will remain available, but with reduced content and limited search capabilities."

According to the Public Notice, the FCC will follow its normal schedule of operation during the maintenance period, but voicemail will be offline, and most Commission staffers will not have access to e-mail. Static content webpages on the fcc.gov domain, such as the FCC consumer guides, should remain available during the outage.

Although the regulatory fee for Amateur Radio vanity call sign applications will officially disappear on September 3, prospective applicants will have to wait until September 8 (1200 UTC) -- or until after the ULS is back online -- to file without paying the fee. The FCC has told ARRL that the approximately 18-day waiting period for a vanity call sign to be granted will remain in place "for now."

The FCC will extend filing deadlines for all regulatory and enforcement filings that fall during the maintenance period. Filings due on September 2, 3, 4, or 8 now will be due on Wednesday, September 9. "Except for the due dates specified herein, we are not automatically extending the deadlines for any other comment or filing periods that will be running during this time period, but requests for extension of time

will be considered consistent with the Commission's normal practice," the FCC Public Notice said. "To the extent the due dates for filings to which reply or responsive pleadings are allowed are affected by this Public Notice, the due dates for reply or responsive pleadings shall be extended by the same number of days."

JARL Sets 90th Anniversary QSO Party: The Japan Amateur Radio League (JARL) will commemorate its 90th anniversary with the JARL 90th Anniversary QSO Party during the entire month of September (UTC).

The event is open to all radio amateurs and shortwave listeners and activity will take place on all amateur bands. Certificates are available to JA and DX stations for working a certain number (either 9 or 90, depending upon category) of participating stations. Stations exchange call signs and signal reports. Only one contact may be counted in the event of multiple contacts with the same station operating from different locations.

All stations submitting a log and summary will receive a Participation Certificate from JARL via the QSL Bureau. E-mail submissions are welcome. Submit a summary sheet and logs of one or more categories. The deadline for submissions is October 30, 2015. Results will be announced in the spring 2016 issue of JARL News and posted on JARL's website.

Send Your Name (and Call Sign) to Mars! Mars enthusiasts can participate in NASA's next journey to Mars by adding their names -- and call signs -- to a silicon microchip headed to the Red Planet aboard NASA's InSight Mars lander, scheduled to launch next year. "Our next step in the journey to Mars is another fantastic mission to the surface," said Jim Green, director of planetary science at NASA Headquarters.

"By participating in this opportunity to send your name aboard InSight to the Red Planet, you're showing that you're part of that journey and the future of space exploration." NASA issued a similar invitation in 2014 for its Orion test flight. So far nearly 365,000 "boarding passes" have been registered with the InSight mission. NASA will accept submissions until September 8. Visit the Mars InSight "Revealing the Heart of Mars" website to get onboard.

Thanks to NASA



Irene Subica, NH7PE

10-10 folks launch a new Scouting program

Ten-Ten International Net, Inc., will hold its Oct. 10 (10/10) Sprint QSO Party next month, so be prepared for it. It's a 24-hour event from 0001UTC to 2359 UTC on Oct. 10. No scores may be assigned to any chapter. Logs are due by Oct. 25. An award will be issued for working all 10 USA Call Districts. Current information about 10-10 and upcoming 10-10 QSO Parties and events is always available on the website at www.ten-ten.org.

And remember the Fall CW QSO Party on Oct. 17-18. You have until Nov. 2 to send in your log.

The 2015 W6OI-VE9TEN-DL0X special operational event is scheduled for Nov. 21-22. Mark your calendar now!

Scouting on Ten:

The Board of Directors voted to begin this great chapter, Scouting on Ten, as part of Ten-Ten International Net.

Our first task is to identify any Boy Scouts that may already be a part of Ten-Ten and all the Scouters that are involved in both Scouting and Ten-Ten. We are looking for suggestions on how we can involve the Scouts in our local Chapters, contests and other events like their JOTA (Jamboree on the Air). What can Chapters do to merge Scouting into your chapter? Looking for your thoughts, ideas and potential plans in your Chapter or area.

Please contact Roy Moyer, WD8JKV No. 20805 at wd8jkv@ten-ten.org. Congratulations to our new Ten-Ten member: KH7MS No. 77311.

You have to make contacts to get results.

Aloha, Irene Subica, NH7PE

Launch Date Set for AMSAT Fox-1A:

AMSAT Vice President of Engineering Jerry Buxton, N0JY, has announced that the Fox-1A CubeSat will launch on October 8 from California. It initially had been set to launch in August. Fox-1A will include an FM transponder with an uplink frequency of 435.180 MHz, and a downlink frequency of 145.980 MHz. The first phase of the Fox series 1-Unit CubeSats will allow simple ground stations using handheld transceivers and simple dual-band antennas to make contacts. The Fox-1 CubeSats will also be able to transmit continuous telemetry during normal transponder operation. The satellites will feature 200 bps telemetry in the audio spectrum below 300 Hz. -- *Thanks to AMSAT News Service*

The ARRL Pacific Division and the Mt. Diablo Amateur Radio Club Present PACIFICON 2015:

October 16, 17 and 18, 2015 • The Great West Coast Ham Radio Convention! • One of the Largest West Coast Vendor Shows of Amateur Radio Gear! • Outstanding Technical Forums! • Great Swap Meet! ___ And...Much, Much More!

Change of Venue to San Ramon Marriott Hotel 2600 Bishop Drive San Ramon, California, 94583. For Events, Schedules, Latest Updates, and Registration and Ticket Reservations go to www.PACIFICON.org Youth 17 & under free • College students \$5 • Advance registration closes October 5.

If Hotel lodging is needed: Make reservations before September 17, to qualify for the special Pacificon rate of \$129/night. Call the Marriott Reservations Desk at 1-800-228-9290_ and ask for the Pacificon rate. These special rates will be available until the Pacificon block is sold out.

Pacificon 2015 features a long list of great forums and exhibits, including: All-Day Antenna Seminar on Friday • Saturday Morning Breakfast with Gordon West • Outstanding Technical Forums • Large Vendor Show of Amateur Radio Gear - All 3 Days • Get-on-the-Air W1AW/6 Special Events Station • Special Public MDARC Meeting on Friday Evening; Evening Banquet with Guest Speaker John Miller, K6MM, on Saturday • Excellent QRP Program • Ham License Testing • One-Day Technician License Class Followed by License Testing • Gordon West Ham Instructor Academy • Youth Projects and Activities • Kit Assembly/Soldering for Adults

and Youth • Inspiring & Teaching Youth about Ham Radio, by Carole Perry • Daily Radio Prize Drawings • Parachute Mobile Radio Transmissions • Wouff Hong Ceremony; Great Sunday Swap Meet • Sunday Ham Radio 101/201 Seminar - What Every New Ham Needs to Know • Sunday Disaster Communications Workshop • Sunday Annual ARRL Pacific Division Forum • Sunday Emergency Communication Exam (EC-001). Come and Experience the Many Facets of Ham Radio!

Joint Cuba-US DX Operation

Planned: Will Include CQ World Wide SSB Contest In the wake of the recently announced normalization of diplomatic relations between the US and Cuba, a joint US-Cuba operation is being planned for this fall, to include the dates of the CQ World Wide SSB contest. "The combined group will be operating under the call sign T42US between October 21 and October 28, including during the CQ WW DX SSB Contest," the announcement said. "There will be nine operators from the USA and approximately the same number from Cuba. The T42US group will operate 160-10 meters, SSB and CW." The US Team leader is Jim Millner, WB2REM, and the Cuban Team Leader is Bob Ibarra, CM2KL. Millner said the T42US operation will be among the first of its kind in Cuba and will involve a joint effort between the US and Cuban teams.



Pacificon 2015 features a long list of great forums and exhibits, including an All-Day Antenna Seminar. This photo was taken at last year's event.